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**Date:** 1/17/02 8:08am **Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Over the years I have seen MS stifle competition by stomping out rivals. I work in the Web Development arena, helping companies to build on line applications. I also use other operating systems besides Windows. I want the freedom to use the platform of choice and this will only continue to be an option if MS has viable competition. This competition will only continue if developers are not scared away from working with other companies by MS.

The settlement MS has proposed only allows them further inroads into a field (education) where they have the only serious competition. Apple has worked very hard to cultivate the education market-fairly! To give MS unfettered access to that market would only hasten it's demise. Corporations find themselves spending billions to keep up with MS. Conversely, supporting Apple computers in education is a much more cost efficient method of bringing technology to students. Total cost of ownership is much higher with MS operating systems and compatible PC's. Allowing MS to rapidly corner this market, as the current proposal provides, would not only stifle competitors, it would cost education and thus government even more money and not benefit students beyond what they currently receive.

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